(d) and (e) As a step towards consolidation of RRBs, the process of amalgamation of RRBs in contiguous districts sponsored by the same bank within a State has been initiated in consultation with the Sponsor Banks, NABARD and the respective State Governments.

Duplication of credit cards

2862. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that crime syndicates are duplicating credit cards of unsuspecting customers by using illegal technological means; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by the enforcement agencies to check this crime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India has reported that few instances of duplication of Credit Cards of unsuspecting customers by use of illegal technological means has come to their notice. There is a trend of duplicating Credit Cards in the market for unauthorised uses by unscrupulous elements.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has advised in May, 2001 to banks to set up internal control systems to combat frauds related to Credit Cards. The banks in turn have put in place control measures as under:

(i) Special monitoring of transactions incurred in high risk countries is in place. In some banks, customers who visit high risk countries are reissued a card with new number. Old card is blocked in the system.

(ii) Banks also monitor authorization transactions on a real time basis and customer are contracted if the transactions appear to be suspicious.

World Bank Structural Adjustment Loan facility for Punjab

2863. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Punjab has applied for World Bank Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL) facility of about 800 million dollars to